

Mike Honda, CAPAC Chair, urges passage of the DREAM Act this week

Washington, DC – Today, US Rep. Mike Honda, chairman of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, issued the following statement urging the passage of the Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act this week by both the US House of Representatives and the US Senate:

“I applaud Senator Reid and Speaker Pelosi for their leadership in supporting the DREAM Act. Passage of the DREAM Act is a top priority for CAPAC, as 1 in 10 DREAM Act beneficiaries would be Asian American and Pacific Islander,” said Honda.

Failure to pass the DREAM Act would disproportionately impact Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) students, especially in California, where more than 40% of DREAM Act beneficiaries would be Asian. 1.5 million Asian individuals make up 12.5% of the 12 million undocumented population. This is disproportionately large given that AAPIs make up only 5% of the US population.

“For many congresses, Members of our caucus have been vocal on the passage of both comprehensive immigration reform and the DREAM Act,” continued Honda. “CAPAC will continue to push until the American dream becomes a reality for all our students.

“The DREAM Act would provide the opportunity to 65,000 undocumented high school graduates to make contributions to our country and economy. The legislation would make a small investment in our children; however, the gains for the country are far greater and far too inviting to ignore.

“I urge my colleagues in both Houses to do the right thing and pass the DREAM Act.”

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The Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC) is comprised of Members of Congress of Asian and Pacific Islander descent and members who have a strong dedication to promoting the well-being of the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community. Since 1994, CAPAC has been addressing the needs of the AAPI community in all areas of American life. For more information on CAPAC, please call (202) 225-2631 or visit <http://www.honda.house.gov/capac>.